

REMARKS

This Response is submitted in reply to the Office Action dated December 30, 2004. Claims 1, 11-14 and 23-27 are pending in the patent application. Claims 1, 11-14 and 23-27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Hug et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,806,078 (Hug). Claims 1, 14 and 26 have been amended. Claims 29-37 are new. No new matter has been added. At least for the reasons set forth below, Applicant believes that the rejections raised in the Final Office Action have been overcome and thus should be withdrawn.

Of the pending claims at issue, claims 1, 14 and 26 are independent claims. Independent claim 1 recites an information processing apparatus that includes a storage means for repeatedly storing data in a plurality of different states when said data is created or changed, wherein each of said different stored state of said data comprises time information corresponding to a day and/or time at which said data is stored. Further including an application program for use with said data and capable of transmitting said time information to another application program and capable of receiving time information corresponding to a day and/or time from said another application program. A day and time setting means for setting a day and/or time in said application program based on said time information received from said another application program. A control means is included for locating data from said stored plurality of different sets of said data at about said set day and/or time and for reproducing said data corresponding to said set day and/or time. A storage means stores the application program, and said control means reproduces the state of the application program corresponding to the set day and/or time. The application program and said another application program each independently include said time information, where the application program and the another application program are each independently capable of transmitting and receiving the time information.

Independent claim 14 recites an information processing method including the steps of repeatedly storing data in a plurality of different states when said data is created or changed, where each of the different stored state of the data comprises time information corresponding to a day and time at which the data is stored. Transmitting the time information from an application program capable of using the data to another application program. Receiving, in the application program, time information corresponding to a day and time from the another application program. Setting a day and time in the application program based on the time information

received from the another application program. Locating data from the stored plurality of different sets of the data at about the set day and time. Reproducing the data corresponding to the set day and time and reproducing a state of the application program corresponding to the set day and time. The application program and the another application program each independently include the time information, where the application program and the another application program are each independently capable of transmitting and receiving the time information.

Independent claim 26 recites a computer-readable distribution medium for providing a program. The program includes a storing step for repeatedly storing data in a plurality of different states, wherein each of the different states of the data is based on time information corresponding to a day and time at which the data is stored. The application program and the another application program each independently include the time information, where the application program and the another application program are each independently capable of transmitting and receiving the time information. A day and time setting step for setting a day and time in the application program based on the time information received from the another application program. Locating data from the stored plurality of different sets of the data at about the set day and time. A control step for reproducing the data corresponding to the set day and time and reproducing a state of the application programs corresponding to the set day and time.

Applicant believes that Hug fails to disclose or suggest at least a number of features of the claimed invention. For example, Applicant believes that Hug at least fails to disclose where the application program and the another application program each independently include the time information, and where the application program and the another application program are each independently capable of transmitting and receiving the time information as required by the claimed invention and fully supported in the specification. See, Specification pg. 42, ln. 17 to pg. 45, ln. 11.

In Hug, the version manager processor 36, as shown in FIG. 2, is the management tool for including time in the version data. The version management software 34 and the spreadsheet software 22 are loaded into the volatile storage 20 in the processing subsystem 16 to form the version manager processor 36. Thus, version manager processor 36 serves as an interface between the spreadsheet processor 24 and information stored in the library directory 38. The

information in the library directory 38 includes a pair of version control files (a version data file 40 and a difference data file 42) corresponding to all existing document versions (Versions 1-N).

When a document is checked out from the library directory 38, the version manager processor 36 recognizes the document either as an original document or as a subsequent document. Where the document is recognized as an original, it is transferred as a current version 46, to a working directory 48 where it is accessible to the spreadsheet processor 24. A subsequent document is processed by the version manager processor 36 by first retrieving the original version or an earlier subversion document from the common version control data files 40 and 42. Version manager processor 36 uses the contents of the subsequent version to modify the earlier one to create the current version 46.

When a document is checked in, the identification data 56 identifies the date and time the version was created. When a new document is saved/checked in, to the library directory, the version manager processor 36 generates the version data 40 and the difference file 42 for the new document. When each subsequent version is checked in, the version manager processor 36, using the delta processor 44 updates and stores the version data file 40 and the difference data file 42 to reflect the changes in the subsequent version.

In Hug, therefore, the version manager processor 36 can generate data adapted to display the differences between any two selected document versions. Further, the version manager processor 36 can alter the character display format for display fields which reflect differences between selected document versions.

Clearly this suggests that the version manager processor 36, receives the date and time information from the identification data 56 in a version data file 40 and a difference data file 42. This also suggests that the version manager processor 36 transmits the date and time information to the identification data 56 in a version data file 40 and a difference data file 42 when a new file is created. However, this fails to suggest where an application and another application program each independently include the time information, and where the application and the other application are each independently capable of transmitting and receiving said time information. Thus, the linking of date and time information in Hug is a one-way interaction.

On the contrary, the claimed invention, in part, provides that the application programs independently include the time information. Further, the linking of time information occurs as a

“two-way interaction” as each program is capable of transmitting and receiving the time information between each other. Thus, time information is linked between the different applications. In this regard, when one type of application, such as an electronic mail software (i.e. electronic mail browser), an image browser and the like, is linked with the application which realizes a desktop environment capable of moving in time, linking such that a file related to a work which was being performed around the time a particular piece of mail was received is displayed on the desktop becomes possible. See, specification, pg. 33, ln. 9-20 and pg. 42, ln. 11-22. Therefore, Hug on its own is distinguishable from the claimed invention and should be withdrawn in view of same based on the reasons discussed above.

Applicant has also added new claims 29-37 as fully supported in the specification, for example on page 33 at lines 9-24 and page 34 at lines 5-9. Newly added claims 29-37 depend from one of independent claims 1, 14 and 26. Applicant believes that claims 29-37 are patentable over Hug at least for substantially the same reasons as described above.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that the present application is in condition for allowance and earnestly solicit reconsideration of same.

Respectfully submitted,

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